

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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EDITOR

Tuberculosis Death Rate Makes Phenomenal Decrease

The tuberculosis death rate in California dropped last year to 88.9 per cent per 100,000 population. There were 5292 tuberculosis deaths in 1931 as compared with 5629 such deaths in 1930. The rate per 100,000 population in 1930 was 98.2. The death rate for tuberculosis has fallen from 221.8 per 100,000 population to its present low mark.

There are many factors that are responsible for the remarkable reductions in the death rate for this disease. One of them is the provision of adequate facilities for the treatment of tuberculosis patients. The economic depression has had no effect upon the mortality rate for this disease. It is possible that lack of proper and sufficient food had built a background for the development of future cases of this disease during coming years, but the depression itself has produced no effect upon the death rate from this disease. It is possible, too, that favorable economic conditions that have existed in California during past years are, in a measure, responsible for the low death rate from tuberculosis which prevail at the present time. The general prosperity that has been enjoyed, ideal labor conditions, the availability of wide varieties of foods, and the provision of innumerable recreational facilities have no doubt been deciding factors in lowering the tuberculosis death rate.

Due to its favorable climatic conditions, California attracts many sufferers from tuberculosis and as a result the death rate from this disease is higher in California than in most of the other states. The same is true of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and a few

other states to which tuberculosis patients migrate in large numbers. A total of 342 individuals who had lived in the State for less than one year died of tuberculosis in 1931. A total of 1026 individuals who had lived in the State less than four years died of this disease last year. Out of a total of 5292 deaths from this cause in 1931, 3065 were in individuals who had lived in this State for ten years and over.

Most deaths from tuberculosis occur in individuals who are between 25 and 44 years of age. A considerable number of such deaths occurs also among those who are between the ages of 15 and 24. Twenty per cent of all tuberculosis deaths in California last year were in Mexicans. There were 1195 deaths among individuals of this race, as compared with 3467 among those of the white race, 178 negroes, 149 Japanese, 107 Chinese, 63 Indians, and 113 of all other races. The following table gives the number of deaths from tuberculosis and the rate per 100,000 population by years from 1906 to 1931:

Year	Deaths	Rate
1906	4437	221.8
1907	4607	225.5
1908	4565	209.0
1909	4673	203.9
1910	4872	203.0
1911	5114	203.9
1912	5128	196.0
1913	5402	198.3
1914	5320	187.8
1915	5551	186.9
1916	5267	172.8
1917	5457	172.9
1918	5888	180.4
1919	5678	168.3
1920	5397	152.6

Year	Deaths	Rate
1921	5427	144.5
1922	5847	147.1
1923	5724	136.5
1924	6023	136.5
1925	5896	127.3
1926	5794	119.4
1927	5960	117.6
1928	6074	114.8
1929	5855	106.3
1930	5629	98.2
1931	5292	88.9

Tuberculosis Mortality

Length of residence in California	1930	1931
Under 1 month	41	28
1-3 months	95	72
4-6 months	88	77
7-12 months	186	165
13 months to 4 years	760	684
5-9 years	1010	897
10 years and over	3103	3065
Unknown	346	304

By Race

White	3648	3467
Negro	201	178
Indian	99	63
Chinese	113	107
Japanese	143	149
Mexican	1306	1195
Others	119	133

By Age Groups

Under 1 year	88	73
1-4	227	213
5-14	237	196
15-24	950	863
25-34	1175	1088
35-44	1024	1012
45-54	870	852
55-64	572	552
65 —	486	443

THE CHILD IS MAN'S BEST FRIEND

In the monthly bulletin issued by the Imperial County Health Department, Dr. Warren F. Fox, County Health Officer, publishes under the above caption an interesting statement relative to rabies control. He requests the cooperation of all citizens in complying with all ordinances and regulations that have to do with the control of stray dogs, because of the menace that they present to both children and live stock. He states, "It should be the duty of every citizen to aid in stamping out rabies before it gets a further foothold among our animal pets and our dairy cows. Many dog-lovers are having their valuable pets protected by rabies vaccine, knowing that, while it is not 100 per cent protective, their animals have a better chance in life than unvaccinated dogs.

Most of us are dog lovers, but, after all, 'is not the child man's best friend?'"

CANCER DEATH RATE FALLS SLIGHTLY

While there was an increase of 216 cancer deaths in California last year, the rate per 100,000 population fell from 125.5 to 124.5, because of the material increase in the population as based upon United States census estimates. While this decrease is negligible, there is significance in the fact that the cancer mortality rate in California has remained at least stationary during the past two years. There were 7411 deaths from this cause in 1931, as compared with 7195 such deaths in 1930. The cancer death rate in California has increased from 107.2 per 100,000 in 1921 (during which year there were 4025 deaths due to cancer) to 7411 such deaths in 1931, with a mortality rate of 124.5 per 100,000 population. Next to heart disease and diseases of the circulatory system, more deaths in California are due to cancer than to any other cause. Eleven per cent of all deaths in California are due to this disease.

Most deaths from cancer occur in persons who are over 45 years of age. Almost half of all cancer deaths are in individuals who are 65 years of age and over. The disease causes more deaths in women than in men and comparatively few individuals of races other than white suffer from this disease. Cancer affects fatally the stomach, liver, and digestive tract more often than any other organs of the body. Half of all cancer deaths are in individuals whose cancer is located in these organs. The following table shows the classifications by organs affected for deaths from cancer in 1931:

Cancer buccal cavity	268
Cancer digestive tract peritoneum	3550
Cancer respiratory system	262
Cancer uterus	814
Cancer other female genital organs	184
Cancer breast	774
Cancer male genitourinary organs	650
Cancer skin	164
Cancer other and unspecified organs	745

A large amount of work is being done in efforts to control cancer. The early discovery of cases is most important. Many cases are not revealed except through thorough routine medical examinations. Many individuals do not know that they have cancer until such an examination indicates its presence. Any unusual swelling or lump should be regarded as suspicious of cancer. Surgery is not required in all cases. Several methods of treatment are used successfully in some forms of this disease. The most important factor in the prevention of cancer is early discovery and prompt application of such treatment as medical service may recommend.

The numbers of deaths from cancer by years from 1921 to 1931, together with the death rates for each year, are as follows:

Year	Deaths	Rate
1921	4025	107.2
1922	4484	112.8
1923	4702	112.1
1924	5114	115.9
1925	5278	114.0
1926	5638	116.2
1927	5927	116.9
1928	6403	121.0
1929	6518	118.3
1930	7195	125.5
1931	7411	124.5

RESULTS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN IMPERIAL COUNTY

Dr. Warren F. Fox, Health Officer of Imperial County, has summarized results of medical inspection of school children in Imperial County during last year. A total of 3805 children was examined, in whom 4212 defects were found. The highest percentage of defects was in enlarged cervical glands—43 per cent. The next most common defect was enlarged tonsils—36 per cent; followed by defective vision—21 per cent; eye infection—13 per cent; flat feet—13 per cent; dental infection—13 per cent; orthodontia—9 per cent; and decayed permanent teeth—7 per cent. Possible lung infection—6 per cent; heart—5 per cent; and faulty posture—1 per cent.

In comparing results with the preceding years, it is found that the percentage of cases with defective vision is less and a marked improvement is shown among children who suffer from eye infection. The improvement in dental defects is also conspicuous. A large number of cases which were discovered in routine school physical examinations were referred to their family physicians. Numerous indigent cases were cared for through the cooperation of various physicians, teachers, optometrists, county and social agencies. Particular attention was paid to examinations of the lungs and, wherever necessary, through the cooperation of the county hospital, X-rays of the lungs were made. It is hoped that through these operations many early cases of tuberculosis may be diagnosed and arrested through the provision of careful home supervision, proper food, rest, and general hygienic living. Eight hundred more children were examined during the past year than were examined during the preceding year.

A sick man is not a good farmer nor is he a good judge of hogs, horses or cattle. He must be free from handicaps caused by physical suffering if his mental faculties are to function soundly.—Florida Health Notes.

STATE FOOD AND DRUG WORK CENTRALIZED

Through a change which has been made in the organization of the food and drug work of the California Department of Public Health, Dr. W. H. Kellogg has been made Chief of the Bureau of Food and Drugs, in addition to his duties as Chief of the Division of Laboratories. All of the laboratory work in connection with the examination of foods and drugs will be under the supervision of Dr. Kellogg.

Mr. M. P. Duffy has been placed in charge of the enforcement of food and drug laws, in addition to his duties as Chief of the Bureau of Cannery Inspection. The new arrangement will enable the department to conserve its funds and to promote greater efficiency in all of its work related to the enforcement of food and drug laws.

There is nothing against which we ought to be more on our guard than, like a flock of sheep, following the crowd of those who have preceded us, going, as we do, not where we ought to go, but where men have walked before * * *. We live not according to reason, but according to mere fashion and tradition. We shall recover our sound health if only we shall separate ourselves from the herd, for the crowd of mankind stands opposed to right reason—the defender of its own evils and miseries * * *. Human history is not so well conducted that the better way is pleasing to the mass. The very fact of the approbation of the multitude is a proof of the badness of the opinion or practice. Let us ask what is *best*, not what is more *customary*; what may place us in the possession of an everlasting felicity.—Seneca writing to Lucilius.

MORBIDITY*

Diphtheria.

80 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Imperial County 2, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 5, Burbank 1, Compton 1, Glendale 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 37, Pomona 1, San Fernando 2, Lynwood 1, South Gate 2, Salinas 1, Anaheim 2, Santa Ana 1, Placentia 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 3, San Diego 1, San Francisco 6, Santa Clara County 1, Tulare County 2, Ventura 2.

Scarlet Fever.

168 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 2, Oakland 3, Richmond 2, Fresno County 11, Fresno 2, Imperial County 3, El Centro 2, Kings County 1, Corcoran 1, Los Angeles County 12, Burbank 2, Claremont 2, Glendale 2, Hermosa 1, Huntington Park 3, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 57, Montebello 1, Pasadena 1, Pomona 3, Redondo 2, South Gate 2, Madera County 1, Merced County 3, Monterey County 3, Salinas 1, Orange County 1, Riverside County 1, Hemet 3, Sacramento County 6, Sacramento 2, San Diego 3, San Francisco 8, San Joaquin County 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Bruno 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 6, Stanislaus County 2, Turlock 1, Yuba City 1, Tulare County 1.

Smallpox.

22 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Hanford 2, Madera County 4, Madera 1, San

*From reports received on April 18th and 19th for week ending April 16th.

Francisco 9, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 1, San Jose 1, Santa Rosa 2.

Typhoid Fever.

7 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Imperial County 1, Los Angeles 2, Riverside County 1, San Francisco 1, Palo Alto 1.

Measles.

627 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Albany 3, Berkeley 3, Oakland 26, Jackson 6, Contra Costa County 1, El Cerrito 1, Richmond 6, El Dorado County 1, Placerville 2, Fresno County 5, Humboldt County 2, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 2, Compton 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 12, Pasadena 1, Madera County 5, Madera 15, Marin County 1, Sausalito 4, Mariposa County 9, Yosemite 2, Napa County 4, Napa 1, Plumas County 4, Sacramento 35, San Diego 1, San Francisco 219, San Joaquin County 64, Stockton 86, San Luis Obispo 1, Burlingame 1, Daly City 3, Redwood City 1, Lompoc 5, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 1, Solano County 9, Vacaville 8, Sonoma County 46, Turlock 1, Tehama County 1, Red Bluff 10, Ventura County 2, Yolo County 6, Davis 3.

Whooping Cough.

388 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 9, Alameda 3, Berkeley 10, Oakland 38, Piedmont 3, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 7, Eureka 1, Los Angeles County 21, Azusa 2, Burbank 5, Claremont 1, Culver City 3, El Segundo 1, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 2, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 15, Los Angeles 65, Monrovia 1, Montebello 1, Pasadena 7, Pomona 9, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 2, Whittier 5, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 1, Signal Hill 1, Marin County 2, San Rafael 3, Sausalito 1, Anaheim 7, Santa Ana 14, Tustin 1, Riverside 3, Sacramento 8, San Bernardino County 2, Coronado 1, San Diego 27, San Francisco 16, San Joaquin County 4, Stockton 10, San Luis

Obispo County 10, San Luis Obispo 4, Burlingame 2, Santa Barbara County 10, Santa Maria 6, Palo Alto 3, San Jose 3, Stanislaus County 1, Sonora 2, Ventura County 23, Fillmore 2.

Leprosy.

One case of leprosy from San Francisco has been reported.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

One case of epidemic encephalitis from Alameda has been reported.

Food Poisoning.

3 cases of food poisoning from Los Angeles have been reported.

Undulant Fever.

4 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 1, Riverside 1, Stanislaus County 1, California 1.**

Actinomycosis.

One case of actinomycosis from Sacramento has been reported.

Septic Sore Throat.

One case of septic sore throat from Berkeley has been reported.

Psittacosis.

One case of psittacosis from Pasadena has been reported.

Poliomyelitis.

3 cases of poliomyelitis from Los Angeles have been reported.

Coccidioidal Granuloma.

One case of coccidioidal granuloma from Bakersfield has been reported.

**Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1932			1931		
	Week ending		Reports for week ending April 16 received by April 19	Week ending		Reports for week ending April 18 received by April 21
	Mar. 26	April 2		Mar. 28	April 4	
Actinomycosis	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox	679	1,010	1,057	909	526	441
Coccidioidal Granuloma	2	0	0	1	1	0
Dengue	0	0	1	0	0	0
Diphtheria	65	59	64	80	37	58
Dysentery (Amoebic)	2	1	1	3	2	0
Dysentery (Bacillary)	2	0	1	2	2	1
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	0	1	0	1	1	0
Erysipelas	11	11	22	31	12	25
Food Poisoning	0	0	12	3	12	3
German Measles	16	28	12	29	23	17
Gonococcus Infection	131	156	260	129	107	124
Hookworm	1	0	0	1	0	1
Influenza	114	92	62	88	1,016	146
Jaundice (Epidemic)	1	1	0	0	0	5
Leprosy	0	0	0	1	1	0
Malaria	1	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	458	686	548	627	1,894	1,322
Meningitis (Epidemic)	4	3	5	0	5	10
Mumps	166	204	181	303	378	236
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	2	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pellagra	0	0	1	1	1	3
Pneumonia (Lobar)	60	78	71	50	131	70
Poliomyelitis	0	4	0	3	2	3
Psittacosis	1	0	2	1	0	0
Rabies (Animal)	17	8	10	12	33	14
Scarlet Fever	148	159	168	168	168	139
Septic Sore Throat	0	3	1	1	0	5
Smallpox	24	14	7	22	53	39
Syphilis	189	229	306	171	146	222
Tetanus	2	0	1	2	2	1
Trachoma	3	8	3	7	0	1
Trichinosis	0	2	0	0	0	2
Tuberculosis	221	222	257	167	229	250
Typhoid Fever	8	9	10	7	7	8
Undulant Fever	0	2	3	4	3	1
Whooping Cough	202	362	389	388	300	222
Totals	2,529	3,353	3,455	3,215	5,092	3,361
						3,967
						3,762

Diphtheria shows an increased prevalence.

Measles and mumps also show increases.

Smallpox jumped to 24 cases reported last week.

Influenza shows a slight increase.